

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MASERU 00595 111437Z

46

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 USIA-06 /016 W

----- 000488

R 111254Z JUNE 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4928

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 595

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, LT

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR IV GRANT FOR CHIEF JUSTICE MAPETLA

1. SUMMARY: GOL MINISTER JUSTICE, C. D. MOLAPO, HAS APPROACHED EMBASSY TO REQUEST INVITATION TO CHIEF JUSTICE JOAS T. MAPETLA TO VISIT U.S. ON REST AND OBSERVATION TRIP. CHIEF JUSTICE IS PRESENTLY BEING TREATED FOR ULCER AND MINISTER BELIEVES RELAXED VISIT TO U.S. WOULD BE SALUTARY AS WELL AS PROFESSIONALLY REWARDING. EMBASSY STRONGLY SUPPORTS PROPOSAL AND REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE AS TO AVAILABILITY OF EARLY FUNDING. END SUMMARY.

2. TWO WEEKS AGO MINISTER MOLAPO APPROACHED CHARGE WITH SUGGESTION THAT EMBASSY SHOULD GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO INVITING CHIEF JUSTICE TO U.S. ON PROFESSIONAL TOUR. POINT WAS THAT MAPTETLA IS FIRST MOSOTHO TO BE ELEVATED TO POSITION OF CHIEF JUSTICE AND WOULD BENEFIT FROM OPPORTUNITY TO MEET COLLEAGUES IN U.S. AND OBSERVE JUDICIAL SYSTEM THERE. ON JUNE 9, MOLAPO SENT HIS PERMANENT SECRETARY TO EMBASSY TO EXPLAIN THAT REQUEST HAD GAINED SOME URGENCY AS CHIEF JUSTICE NEEDED COMPLETE BREAK FROM OFFICIAL DUTIES AND CHANGE OF ATMOSPHERE TO HASTEN RECOVERY.

3. MAPETLA BECAME ILL WITH WHAT WAS DIAGNOSED AS ULCER WHILE PRESIDING OVER FIRST TREASON TRIAL. IT GENERALLY CONSIDERED THAT PRESSURES OF PRESIDING OVER LONG, ARDUOUS, AND POLITICALLY SENSITIVE TRIAL CONTRIBUTED TO ILLNESS. FACT OF HIS APPARENT NEED FOR REST FROM OFFICIAL DUTIES PROVIDES US WITH OPPORTUNITY, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MASERU 00595 111437Z

IF POSSIBLE, OF OFFERING HIM IV GRANT IN CONNECTION WITH HIS  
NEW AND GREATER RESPONSIBILITIES.

4. IN EMBASSY'S ESTIMATION, MAPETLA IS ABLEST, MOST CONSCIENTIOUS,  
AND FAIREST MAN IN LESOTHO PUBLIC LIFE. HE WAS IV GRANTEE IN 1969  
WHEN HE WAS SR. PERMANENT SECRETARY (CABINET SECRETARY). SINCE  
ASSUMING POSITION OF CHIEF JUSTICE LAST YEAR, HE HAS ENHANCED HIS  
REPUTATION. HE GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE OPPOSED TO PRESENT GOVERN-  
MENT  
BUT IS NEVERTHELESS TRUSTED AND RESPECTED. HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD U.S.  
WARM  
AND FRIENDLY BUT NOT COMPLETELY UNCRITICAL. WHATEVER DEVELOPMENTS  
ENSUE IN LESOTHO POLITICS, MAPETLA IS  
BOUND TO STAND OUT AS LEADER. EMBASSY HAS NO HESITATION IN  
RECOMMENDING HIM AS EMINENTLY QUALIFIED IV GRANTEE, AND HIS SELECTION

WOULD MESH NICELY WITH POST'S COUNTRY PROGRAM FOR FY 76.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT 'S EARLY ADVICE AS TO WHETHER EARLY FY 76  
FUNDING AVAILABLE, WHETHER PROGRAMMING POSSIBLE THIS SHORT NOTICE,  
AND WHETHER IT APPROPRIATE TO RENOMINATE IV GRANTEE AFTER LAPSE  
OF SIX YEARS, GIVEN HIS IMPORTANT NEW POSITION.  
HAUGHT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MASERU00595  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D750203-0796  
**From:** MASERU  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750695/aaaagvnh.tel  
**Line Count:** 88  
**Locator:** TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION CU  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 971016  
**Subject:** REQUEST FOR IV GRANT FOR CHIEF JUSTICE MAPETLA  
**TAGS:** OEXC, LT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006